

Attorney Docket No. LEAP:128US
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/811,346
Reply to Office Action of May 22, 2006
Date: July 24, 2006

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace original paragraph [0038] with this amended replacement paragraph:

[0038] Referring now to Figures 9-12, an alterative embodiment of the present invention may be configured to comprise fine focus knob 33 disposed on a same side of the microscope as stage drive mechanism 26 such that adjustment of the microscope stage in the x, y and z directions, and more particularly, fine focal adjustment, may be accomplished on the same side of the microscope. As shown more clearly in Figures 9, 10 and 12, fine focus knob 33 is illustrated as being disposed on a same side of the microscope as stage drive mechanism 26. Fine focus knob 33 is substantially similar to fine focus knobs 32 and 34, except the width of band portion [[32]] 42 of fine focus knob 33 is less than that of fine focus knobs 32 and 34. This reduction in width of the band portion [[32]] 42 of fine focus knob 33 allows the knob to more readily and ergonomically fit between the focus drive means 36 and stage drive mechanism 26. Thus x, y and z stage adjustment may be accomplished on a same side of the microscope using a single hand. It should be further appreciated that band portion [[32]] 42 may be tapered such that fine focus knob 33 comprises a frustum. Additionally, it should be appreciated by those having ordinary skill in the art that while the Figure 9-12 illustrate fine focus knob 33 as comprising a substantially knurled surface, the surface of fine focus knob 33 may comprise other means for increasing grip or comprise a smooth surface to differentiate such knob from the coarse focus knobs.